Introduction

The following four texts are representative of the Ixil spoken in the municipality of Cotzal, Quiché, by approximately 14,000 people. The texts are, in general, well formed and typical of the folk narrative and procedure genre. Three of the four texts are criptic, having the advantage of displaying little more than the essential components of what is considered a discourse.

These texts contribute as being some of the first published material from the innovative Cotzal dialect of Ixil. The other two Ixil dialects, those of the municipalities of Nebaj and Chajul, are more conservative and homogenious. Some data in these two latter dialects have been made available by Colby, Elliott, and Lengyel.

The Lousy Jaguar

STAGE[1] -

1. **ʔat-ič ma'l u ɓalam şoʔl-ah ¢eʔ,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**[2]
   be-pst.prog one the jaguar among-pl tree/woods ...
   There was a jaguar under the trees/in the woods, *they say*.

2. **ka·na-ič čit ʔuk' t-iʔ,** ***ʔu¢ ʔayaʔ*.**[2]
   many-pst.prog really lice him-on ... ...
   There were many lice on him, *and so*.

3. **şok-l-ič teš şoʔl-ah ¢eʔ,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
   lying-pstn-pst.prog just among-pl tree ...
   He was just lying down in the woods, *they say*.

EPISODE 1- -

Setting

4. **ʔunče·, t-il maʔl u k'oy viʔ ¢eʔ,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
   so.then he-see one the monkey top tree ...
   Then, he saw a monkey in the top of a tree, *they say*.

Repartee Block

5. **i-q'ila u k'oy,**[3]
   he-spoke.to the monkey
   He spoke to the monkey,

6. **"k'oy!"**
   monkey
   "Monkey!"

7. **teš ø t-e,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
say he him-to ...
he said to him, *they say*.

8. "**kan tala?**"[4]
what it.say
"What do you say?"

9. **teš ø u k'oy,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
say he the monkey ...
said the monkey, *they say*.

10. "**ɓan ɓaʔn-il v-e.**
do good-inh.qlty me-to
"Do me a favor.

11. **pek ʔe·-sa**[5] **ɓoh uk' v-iʔ.**
but away-cause please lice me-on
Please take some lice off me.

12. **tečal čit ʔuk' v-iʔ,**"
terrific really lice me-on
There are gobbs of lice on me,"

13. **teš ø u ɓalam,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
say he the jaguar ...
said the jaguar, *they say*.

14. "**yuʔn-saʔ,**[6]
I.don't-want.to
"I don't want to,

15. **tan s-a-ciʔ-ʔin ʔaʔ-ɢiʔ,**"
because def.fut-you-eat-me then-...
because then you'll eat me,"

16. **ču**[7] **u k'oy tu u ɓalam,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
say the monkey to the jaguar ...
said the monkey to the jaguar, *they say*.

17. **ʔa·ɢ**[8] **t-al u ɓalam,**
tpc.mkr he-say the jaguar
So the jaguar said,

18. "**ti·řa,**[9] **yeʔškam s-un-ɓan s-a-e.**[10]
really nothing def.fut-I-do loc.rel-you-to
"Really, I won't do anything to you.

19. ʔaƀi, noh čit-tuʔ!"
listen true real-it
Look, really honest!"

20. teš Ø t-e.
say he him-to
he said to him.

Narrative Block

21. ʔa·ȼ u k'oy kuʔ-ʔul viʔ ȼeʔ, ni-t-al-eʔ *ʔuȼ*.
tpc.mkr the monkey down-this.drctn top tree ... ...
So the monkey came down from the tree top, they say, *and*.

22. şeʔt-t-e·-sa ʔuk' t-iʔ val u ƀalam,[11] *ni-t-al-eʔ*.
begin-he-away-cause lice him-off the the jaguar ...
He began to take lice off the jaguar, *they say*.

23. ʔa·ȼ val u ƀalam *ʔuȼ* şeʔt-i-kuʔ-ʔul
tpc.mkr the the jaguar ... begin-it-down-this.drctn

24. i-vat-aʔm, *ni-t-al-eʔ*.
his-sleep-nmzr ...
So the jaguar began to get sleepy, *they say*.

25. vat te-čit ƀaʔn-il, *ʔuȼ ʔayaʔ*.
sleep very-really good-inh.qlty ... ...
He really slept soundly, *and*.

26. ʔa·ȼ u k'oy *ʔuȼ ʔayaʔ* i-k'al-ka-ʔok v-i-he· u ƀalam
tpc.mkr the monkey ... ... he-tie-leave-up the-his-tail the jaguar

27. t-iʔ maʔl u ȼeʔ, *ni-t-al-eʔ*.
it-on one the tree ...
So the monkey left the jaguar's tail all tied up to a tree, *they say*.

28. ƀen tek u k'oy, *ni-t-al-eʔ*.
go then the monkey ...
The monkey left, *they say*.

Repartee Block

29. kʷentas[12] k'as tek u ƀalam, *ʔuȼ*,
upon wake.up then the jaguar ...
When the jaguar woke up, *then*,

30. "kam vet-un-ƀan[13] la-ȼaʔ?
what pst-I-do here
"What did I do here?

31. **ke'č u k'oy?"**
where the monkey
Where's the monkey?"

32. **teš-tu',**[14] ***ni-t-al-e'*.**
said-he ...
he said, *they say*.

33. **"hu, ye'nal čit ƀoh t-i' u k'oy če·l!**
uhu wait really just him-for the monkey now
"Uhu, just that monkey wait now!

34. **kantu' vet-i-k'al-ka-'ok-'in t-i' u ¢e' ¢a'?"**
why pst-he-tie-leave-up-me it-to the tree here
Why did he leave me all tied up to the tree here?"

35. **teš Ø u ƀalam,** ***ni-t-al-e'*.**
say he the jaguar ...
said the jaguar, they say.

36. **ye' nič-i-ç'ol-ve't i-čit-tu t-iƀ,** ***ni-t-al-e'*.**
not pst.prog-he-able-could he-loose-pst.prfct him-self ...
He wasn't able to get himself loose, *they say*.

EPISODE 2 (PEAK)- -

Setting
37. **'unče·, opon tek ma'l u kok,** **ni-t-al-e'.**
so.then arrive then one the turtle ...
So then, a turtle arrived.

38. **'a·¢ u ƀalam t-al t-e,**
tpc.mkr the jaguar he-say him-to
The jaguar said to him,

39. **"kok!"**
turtle
"Turtle!"

40. **teš Ø t-e,** ***ni-t-al-e'*.**
say he him-to ...
he said to him, *they say*.

41. **"hay?"**
what
"What?"

42. **teš ∅ u kok,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
say he the turtle ...
said the turtle, *they say*.

43. "**ɓan ɓaʔn-il v-e.**
do good-inh.qlty me-to
"Do me a favor.

44. **pek čit ɓoh ʔel v-un-he· ¢aʔ.**
but really please away the-my-tail here
Pretty please, loosen my tail here.

45. **tan *ʔaya*** **ʔat-il maʔl u k'oy vet-i-ki¢-ka-ʔin**
for ... be-... one the monkey pst-he-tie-leave-me

46. **t-iʔ u ¢eʔ ¢aʔ,"**
it-to the tree here
There's a monkey who left me tied to this tree here,"

47. **teš ∅ tu u kok,** **ni-t-al-eʔ.**
say he to the turtle ...
he said to the turtle, they say.

48. "**yuʔn-saʔ,**
I.don't-want.to
"I don't want to,

49. **tan s-a-čiʔ-ʔin ʔaʔ-¢iʔ,**
because def.fut-you-eat-me then
because then you'll eat me,"

50. **ču u kok t-e,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
say the turtle him-to ...
he said to the turtle, *they say*.

51. "**yeʔka, noh čit-tuʔ.**
no true really-it
"No, honest, really.

52. **pek kuy un-pa·v.**
but forgive my-sin
I beg of you.

53. **yeʔškam s-un-ɓan s-a-e.**
nothing def.fut-I-do loc.rel-you-to
I won't do anything to you.

54. **pek ʔaʔ s-ʔen-un-čok**[15] **u k'oy.**
but he def.fut-go-I-look.for the monkey
But I'll go look for the monkey.

55. **tan u k'oy vet-k'al-on-ka-ʔin ¢aʔ,**
since the monkey pst-tie-agntv-leave-me here
Since it was the monkey who left me tied here,

56. **teš Ø u ƀalam tu u kok,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
say he the jaguar to the turtle ...
said the jaguar to the turtle, *they say*.

57. "ʔohi ʔunče·,"
all.right then
"All right then,"

58. **teš Ø u kok,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
say he the turtle ...
said the turtle, *they say*.

59. **i-čit-ʔel u ƀalam,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
he-loose-away the jaguar ...
He loosed the jaguar, *they say*.

Narrative Block

60. **ʔa·¢ u ƀalam, kʷentas i-nač čit-aṣ̌-i,**
tpc.mkr the jaguar when he-feel loose-pssv-he
So the jaguar, when he felt he was loose,

61. **ƀen-i,** ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
go-he ...
he left, *they say*.

62. **ʔeṣ̌-i-čok val u k'oy.**
went-he-look.for the the monkey
He went to look for the monkey.

63. **i-čaƀa u k'oy,** ***ʔu¢*.**
he-found the monkey ...
He found the monkey, *and*.

64. **i-čiʔ-a,**[16] ***ni-t-al-eʔ*.**
he-eat-him ...
He ate him, *they say*.

FINIS- -

65. ta'š-tu'.
only-it
That's it.

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Free Translation

The Lousy Jaguar

STAGE

There was a jaguar under the trees. There were many lice on him. He just laid under the trees.

EPISODE 1

He saw a monkey in a tree top. He spoke to the monkey. "Monkey," he said to him.

"What do you say?" said monkey.

"Do me a favor. Please take off the lice on me. The lice are really teriffic on me," said the jaguar.

"I don't want to because you'll eat me," said the monkey to the jaguar, the story goes.

The jaguar said, "I definitely will not do anything to you, man. Really truly," he said to him.

The monkey came down from the tree top, the story goes. He began taking (picking) off the lice from (off) him. The jaguar began to fall asleep. He slept good (soundly).

The monkey tied up the jaguar's tail to a tree. The monkey went away.

When the jaguar awoke he said, "What did I do here? Where's the monkey?" he said. "Just he wait now! Just he wait now, that monkey! Why did he leave me all tied up to this tree?" said the jaguar. He wasn't able to untie himself.

EPISODE 2

So then a turtle arrived, the story goes. The jaguar said to him: "Turtle," he said.

"What?" said the turtle.

"Do me a favor, please free my tail here, because there is a monkey (that) left me tied to this tree," he said to the turtle, the story goes.

I don't want to because you'll eat me," the turtle said to him.

"No, but really truly, I beg of you. I won't do anything to you. But I'll go look for the monkey since the monkey left me all tied up," said the jaguar to the turtle.

"All right then," said the turtle. He loosed the jaguar.

When the jaguar felt he was loosed, he left. He went looking for the monkey. He found the monkey and ate him.

FINIS

The End

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